

REMARKS

The proposed amendments filed after final action are resubmitted. Because the claims filed with the response to final action were not entered, the new claims maintained the initial number 603; however, new claims 603-671 differ from the previously submitted claims. Claims corresponding to claims 603-652 and 666-651 do not appear in the new claims. For the examiner's convenience, please note the following correspondence between claims submitted in the response to final action and in new claims 603-671:

<u>Previous claim number</u>	<u>New claim number</u>
653	628
682	635
689	641
691	655

Argument

The proposed amendments in the response to final action were not entered by the examiner for several reasons. The examiner specifically stated that “[n]ewly submitted claims 603-652 and 666-681 would still be rejectable under the prior art of record such as House, since they do not contain the specific starch having the specified weight, such as was found in claim 436, from which 437 depended.”

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the newly submitted claims 603-671 and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Claims 628, 635, 641, 655 (and claims depending therefrom)

Applicant notes that the examiner did not include previously presented claims 653-665 and 682-694 in his listing of claims that would not be allowable over the cited references.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of newly presented claims 628, 635, 641, 655 (and claims depending therefrom), which correspond to previous claims 653, 682, 689, and 691.

Claims 603-627

The examiner cannot establish a case of *prima facie* anticipation of newly presented claim 603 over the cited references, because the examiner cannot point to a teaching in the cited references requiring the presence of “a blend of water soluble polymers comprising from about 10 wt.% to about 90 wt.% modified polysaccharide and from about 10 wt.% to about 90 wt.% synthetically modified starch.” With respect to newly presented claim 620, the examiner cannot point to a teaching in the cited references requiring “a blend of water soluble polymers comprising synthetically modified starch and from about 40 wt.% to about 60 wt.% modified polysaccharide.”

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments submitted herewith and consideration and allowance of the pending claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 maintained by Baker Hughes Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Morris", is written over a horizontal line.

Paula Morris

Reg. No. 31,516

Paula D. Morris & Associates, P.C.

10260 Westheimer, Suite 360

Houston, Texas 77042

(713) 334-5151

(713) 334-5157

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS